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Agency for cultural and
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THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION: MEETING NEW CHALLENGES



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THE AGENCY FOR CULTURAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION:
MEETING NEW CHALLENGES

ISSUE DEFINITION

Created in 1970, the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation (ACCT) is the only intergovernmental organization in the French-speaking world founded on a convention. However, the context in which the development of the Agency takes place changed considerably after the first Francophone Summit in Paris in February 1986; here a higher administrative body, the Conference of heads of state and government of the countries using French as a common language, was created. The review of the future of French-language institutions launched at the Paris Summit gave rise to an extraordinary General Conference of the Agency in Paris in December 1986. The Conference began reform of the Agency by approving a reorganization of its structures and alignment of its programs with the priorities of the Paris Summit. New momentum was given to the review at the September 1987 Quebec City Summit, where the heads of state and government called for the submission of concrete proposals on how ACCT and the other French-language organizations could be integrated into the process at the Dakar Summit in 1989. After reviewing ACCT's key characteristics and summarizing its activities, this Current Issue Review will examine the various stages of its reform and highlight the role it is called upon to play in the new dynamic of Francophone institutions.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

In addition to ACCT, Canada also participates in two intergovernmental Francophone conferences that meet annually - the

Conference of Ministers of Education and the Conference of Ministers of Youth and Sports of French-speaking countries. The Canadian government also supports various private international Francophone associations, in particular the Association of Partially or Wholly French-Language Universities (AUPELF), and the International Assembly of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AIPLF).

A. A Brief Look at the Agency

ACCT was created on 20 March 1970 in Niamey, Niger, when 22 countries including Canada signed a convention which some ratified immediately and others ratified later. The first article of the Convention specified that the Agency was "to be the expression of a new solidarity and an additional means of bringing people together through a permanent flow of exchanges between the civilizations represented." The Charter was added as an appendix to the Convention and provided a fuller definition of its fundamental objectives: "The essential purpose of the Agency is to strengthen and develop multilateral co-operation among its members in the areas of education, culture, science and technology, and thereby bring peoples together."

The Charter provided for the creation of three bodies: the General Conference, the Board of Directors and the Advisory Council. The General Conference, which directs the Agency's activities and approves its work program, holds biennial meetings at the ministerial level. The Board of Directors, which approves and monitors the development of projects submitted by members, meets yearly. The Advisory Council ensures cooperation between the Agency and the many non-governmental organizations (NGOs) of the French-speaking community. Finally, a secretariat is responsible for planning and implementing the program and budget and financial reports.

As stipulated in Article 3.3 of the Agency's Charter, the federal and Quebec governments had to reach an agreement regarding the nature of Quebec's participation in the Agency. This agreement, entitled "Terms and conditions under which the Government of Quebec is admitted as a

participating government to the institutions, activities and programs of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation, agreed upon on 1 October 1971 between the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec," was concluded on the eve of the Agency's Second General Conference, which took place in Ottawa and Quebec City. It comprises 19 articles and a preamble which refers to Article 3.3 of the Agency's Charter.

Their status as participating governments enables the governments of Quebec and New Brunswick (which received the same status in 1977) to be recognized as such within the Canadian delegation; to have a seat and a nameplate at the discussion table, with the right to take the floor; and to communicate with the Agency directly about programming and organizational matters. Article 16 allows the participating governments exceptional opportunities to act, since it authorizes them to take part in the Agency's programming activities and to assist with the implementation of programs in cooperation with the Secretariat, according to the conditions and terms agreed upon in each case with the Government of Canada.

When the Convention was signed on 20 March 1970, ACCT had 22 member states. Today it has 32 member states, seven associate states and two participating governments.* The membership includes virtually all French-speaking countries, the two major exceptions being Algeria and Switzerland, which do on occasion take part in certain ACCT programs.

Canada's financial contribution to ACCT now represents about 35% of statutory contributions by all members (31.4% from the federal government, 3.0% from the Quebec government, and 0.3% from the New Brunswick government). In 1989, the Canadian government's statutory

* Member states: Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, the Comoros, Congo, Ivory Coast, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Mali, Mauritius, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Zaire. Associate states: Cameroon, Egypt, Guinea-Bissau, Laos, Morocco, Mauritania, St. Lucia. Participating governments: Quebec, New Brunswick. The December 1989 General Conference approved the reintegration of Madagascar and the inclusion of Equitorial Guinea.

contribution amounted to 32,059,462 FF, or about Cdn. \$6.4 million. The Agency's financial situation continues to be marked by the inability of a number of its members to contribute their full amounts every year; these outstanding contributions are building up from year to year.

B. Agency Activities

1. Regular Programs

Until the holding of Francophone summits made it necessary to harmonize the Agency's programs with the priorities adopted at these summits (as we will explain later), the Agency's program activities were divided into three key areas: scientific and technical co-operation, culture, and education and training (including the *École internationale de Bordeaux*). These activities were complemented by shows of solidarity and by the services of the regional office in Lomé, as well as some horizontal programs (consultation, publishing, information and planning).

2. The Special Development Program

At ACCT's Fourth General Conference held in Mauritius in November 1975, Canada proposed the creation of a Special Development Program, to be financed by voluntary contributions kept separate from the Agency's operating budget. France opposed the idea on the grounds that the Agency would be deviating from its mandate if it became involved in development. The Canadian position ultimately won the day, thanks to the support of the African countries, which insisted that development could no longer be dissociated from culture. Canada is among the chief voluntary contributors to the Program.

Inspired by the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, the role of the Program is to assist member states to cope with unforeseen temporary difficulties encountered in carrying out their national development plans, where solutions are not necessarily available or provided for in the regular programs of the Agency or other international bodies. The Program gives priority to requests from the poorest countries and to requests likely to have a multiplier effect. It meets urgent needs expressed by member countries and carries out specific

and short-term projects. The Program makes use of three main types of action: technical assistance, especially in the perspective of cooperation between southern countries; specialized training for officials in the public domain, as dictated by national needs; and technical studies, especially those that will generate regional spin-offs.

3. Ministerial Meetings by Sector

ACCT has become a focus for ministerial meetings in various sectors. These meetings have not been tied to the implementation of particular Agency programs, but they have made it possible to confirm certain operational directions and to suggest others. The following sectors have been the subject of meetings: science and technology (1977), justice (1980), agriculture (1981), culture (1981), scientific research and higher education (1983), communications (1985) and culture (1990). In 1991 the subject was environment. These conferences are now part of the ongoing Francophone summit process.

4. International Relations

From the beginning, the Agency has worked continually at developing its international connections. Initially its main partners were the Francophone associations and the two Francophone ministerial conferences. The Agency has multiplied its contacts and in some cases has co-operated in activities with UN and Commonwealth-affiliated organizations. In 1978 it was granted the status of observer at the UN, a decisive step in its progress toward recognition by the international community.

C. Renewal of ACCT

The heads of state and government of countries that use the French language met in Paris in February 1986 and asked the Follow-Up Committee* to come up with proposals for restructuring the Agency and its

* Made up of personal representatives of the heads of state and government of the French community in Belgium, Burundi, Canada, Canada-Quebec, the Comoros, France, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Senegal and Zaire.

financing methods, so as to enable the Agency to implement decisions reached at the Summits. The Follow-Up Committee created a sub-committee on the future of Francophone institutions, chaired by Mr. Lucien Outers, delegate general of the French community in Belgium. As far as ACCT was concerned, the sub-committee focused on five main problems: its structures; improving its management; difficulties with its financing methods; relations between the Agency, the Follow-Up Committee and the heads of the networks [within the Follow-Up Committee];* and ACCT programs. The sub-committee's report was unanimously approved by the Follow-Up Committee on 22 October 1986.

An extraordinary session of ACCT's General Conference was held in Paris on 1 and 2 December 1986, to look into the possibilities of restructuring the Agency and its programs. Delegates concentrated on the document prepared by the Secretary General, entitled *Projet de réforme des structure de l'ACCT, élaboré suite aux recommandations du Comité du suivi* [Proposed restructuring of ACCT, formulated according to resolutions of the Follow-Up Committee]. A resolution was adopted aimed at reconciling the differences between the Follow-Up Committee's report and that of the Secretary General. As the Follow-Up Committee recommended, the General Conference also decided that during 1987, around 30% of ACCT's "program budget," or 14,000,000 FF, would be earmarked for Summit follow-up activities.

Following the extraordinary General Conference, the Agency immediately began implementing the reforms advocated. The Culture Directorate thus became the Culture and Communication Branch, and the Scientific and Technical Cooperation Directorate became the Science and Technology for Development Branch. The redeployment of staff from the former units within the branches and a study aimed at reforming the status of employees got under way. Finally, the adoption of a series of reforms of administrative and financial procedures permitted a significant improvement in the Agency's operations.

* The Paris Summit decided that multilateral co-operation should be structured around the following five networks: Agriculture, Energy, Culture and Communications, Scientific Information and Technological Development, Language Industries.

At the Quebec Summit, heads of state, government and delegations adopted a resolution concerning mechanisms for implementing the Summit's decisions. They decided to maintain the existence and functions of a Follow-Up Committee and to confirm the existence of the networks and the functions assigned to them under this Committee's authority. They also resolved to create a Joint Advisory Committee consisting of the Follow-Up Committee, assisted by the heads of the networks, and the ACCT's Secretary General, assisted by the Agency's directors general and financial comptroller. This Committee was to be responsible primarily for advising on programs to implement the Summit's decisions; it would also define terms and conditions for any technical support that ACCT might provide to the Follow-Up Committee in fulfilling its mandate.

Participants at the Quebec Summit also adopted regulations for financing the implementation of its decisions. Activities decided by the Summit and assigned to ACCT will be implemented from its regular budget or through added funding, in accordance with the Agency's own budgetary procedures. When governments contribute financially to multilateral operations decided by the Summit and implemented by other multilateral bodies chosen by the Follow-Up Committee, they may also, depending on the nature of each operation, directly credit either the accounts of these bodies or special accounts created by the Agency, giving preference to the latter funding method. Finally, the Follow-Up Committee was given the task of reviewing the respective roles of ACCT, the networks and other Francophone bodies before the Third Summit in 1989, and especially to study ways and means to integrate the networks with ACCT. The resolution adopted specified that the Follow-Up Committee was responsible for submitting concrete proposals in this regard.

ACCT's eleventh General Conference, held in Paris on 7 and 8 December 1987, approved the program and budget proposals prepared by the Secretary General for 1988 and 1989. The programs chosen demonstrate the Agency's wish to harmonize its activities with the major programs decided by the summits. The General Conference supported the Secretary General's steps to reverse the proportion of operating and program expenditures,

increasing the latter. The General Conference also adopted a new organization plan for the Secretariat, effective 1 January 1988.

The General Conference authorized the creation of the Energy Institute of countries that use the French language as a subsidiary body of ACCT, in accordance with Article 7 of the Charter. This Institute, whose creation was decided upon at the Paris Summit, will meet information, research and training needs. The Institute's operating expenses will be paid partly by the host government (Quebec) and partly by the Agency.

On 11 February 1988, the members of the Quebec Summit's International Follow-Up Committee* adopted principles governing the management of multilateral funds. It was decided to create: one joint multilateral fund within ACCT, designed to finance projects in all sectors of cooperation among French-speaking countries; six specific-purpose funds, also within ACCT; three "solidarity" funds in connection with the ACCT's Special Development Program; and two specific-purpose funds in connection with other organizations.

Cooperation between the Follow-Up Committee and ACCT has been reinforced, thanks in particular to the creation of the Joint Advisory Committee (decided on at the Quebec Summit) and the appointment to the Office of ACCT'S Secretary-General in December 1987 of a special adviser responsible for Summit follow-up. Since February 1988 this special adviser has been attending meetings of the Follow-Up Committee as a permanent observer.

The Quebec Summit literally mobilized ACCT, which has become the primary summit organizer. It provided an opportunity to realign the Agency's programs with Summit activities; 809,251,625 FF,** up to 80% of the program budget, was authorized for this purpose for 1988 and 1989. ACCT was also assigned responsibility for managing a substantial share of the multilateral funds set aside by the Quebec Summit, namely 183,027,621 FF. - (It should be noted that a total of 680,717,246 FF was

* Canada (presidency), Canada-Quebec, France and Senegal (vice-presidencies), French-speaking Belgium, Gabon, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Tunisia and Zaire.

** The amounts in Canadian dollars were converted into French Francs, with \$1 = 4,50 FF in 1988 and \$1 = 5,00 FF in 1989.

allocated for Summit follow-up in 1988 and 1989.) A report on the technical and financial aspects of the 110 projects that the Quebec Summit had assigned to the ACCT was published on 5 June 1990.

The Third Summit, which took place in Dakar in May 1989, focused on the growth of Francophone institutions. The resolution respecting the future of French-language institutions and mechanisms for following up on the Dakar Summit was the culmination of serious reflection on the future of Francophone institutions, an issue first raised at the Paris Summit. At the Quebec Summit, the Follow-Up Committee was given the task of examining the role played by ACCT and other Francophone bodies at Summits and, in particular, of studying ways and means of integrating the networks with ACCT. With a view to fulfilling this part of its mandate, the Follow-Up Committee established a sub-committee on the future of French-language institutions. This sub-committee was chaired by Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, Quebec's representative on and Vice-President of the Follow-Up Committee. This deliberative and consultative process resulted in a report which served as inspiration for the decisions reached at Dakar.

The resolution on the future of French-language institutions and follow-up mechanisms with respect to the Dakar Summit ensured that the International Follow-Up Committee would retain all its duties and powers. The heads of state and government recognized that, because of its unique status as an intergovernmental body established by convention to represent the French-speaking community, ACCT guarantees a multilateral dimension to the process of devising and carrying out projects they agree upon. ACCT's role has been expanded to encompass the role and functions of the networks of the International Follow-Up Committee. ACCT also has a mandate to make proposals and suggestions and devise programs for using budget funds. These proposals and suggestions will be submitted to either the International Follow-Up Committee or to the International Preparatory Committee, as the case may be. In accordance with this mandate, the Secretary General of ACCT must take part in an advisory capacity in the meetings of these two committees devoted to cooperation issues. With a view to ensuring a multilateral approach and to simplifying the budget process, the resolution adopted in Dakar also gave ACCT the task of

managing a special multilateral fund set up to finance Summit-related activities. This fund is separate from ACCT's regular budget.

ACCT's 12th General Conference, held in Ottawa 3-5 December 1989, marked another stage in the Agency's reform process. It made it possible to finalize the decisions reached at the Dakar Summit on the Agency's expanded mission, in particular its assumption of the role and functions of the International Follow-Up Committee networks.

The Agency continued its efforts to follow through on the promise made by its Secretary General, Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, to ensure that its actions are concrete, useful and effective. Henceforth, programs will be planned on a five-year basis, regional groups (for example, those with an interest in agricultural training) will be favoured, cooperative activities with international and non-governmental organizations will be increased, and efforts will be made to reduce the Agency's operating expenditures.

Following decisions made by the heads of state and government at the Dakar Summit, the Agency set up 10 expert committees to advise directors general on the implementation of regular ACCT programs and programs directly arising from Summit conferences. These committees are composed of more than 100 experts representing the majority of member countries. Canada is participating in the work of eight committees.

The Agency published a report on the status of the Dakar Summit projects as of 31 December 1990. The report reviews the approximately 110 programs approved at Dakar, focusing on the budgets authorized and the expenses incurred. Most of the programs are managed by the Agency. The following table illustrates how the budget has been broken down by major sector of activity and gives the program execution rate as of 31 December 1990.

The disparity between execution rates in the different sectors (ranging from 90.2% to 37.1%) can be attributed to the contents of the projects themselves, their complexity and the size of the budget allotted. Establishing regional education centres specializing in agriculture is more time-consuming than organizing a training session.

BUDGETARY COMMITMENT BY MAJOR SECTOR OF ACTIVITY

	BUDGET(*)	COMMITTED(*)	%
Agriculture	29.9	11.0	37.1
Environment	7.0	4.3	61.1
Energy	31.6	14.6	46.2
Scientific Information and Technological Development	13.2	11.8	90.2
Culture	21.1	9.4	44.6
Communications	23.1	9.5	41.3
Language Industries	14.3	10.2	71.2
Education and Training	41.1	20.6	50.1
Solidarity Fund	14.6	9.2	63.4
Legal and Judicial Cooperation	2.9	2.2	77.4
French in International Agencies	4.0	1.6	40.8
Training (International School at Bordeaux)	14.8	13.3	89.5
	217.6	117.7	54.%

(*) in millions of French francs. As of 31 December 1990, the Canadian dollar was worth approximately 4.38 FF.

Source: "État d'avancement des projets du Sommet de Dakar," *Lettre de la francophonie*, supplement to Issue Number 14 of 13 February 1991, Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Paris, p. 5.

Since the purpose of this study is not to provide a detailed review of ACCT activities, we will confine our comments to some of the particularly interesting achievements. The Agency organized and followed up on two ministerial meetings, one on culture (Liège, November 1990), and the other on the environment (Tunis, April 1991). The *Institut de l'énergie des pays ayant en commun l'usage du français* reached cruising speed in 1990. That same year, the *École internationale de Bordeaux* organized more than 50 training and development seminars for 800 senior officials and technicians from Francophone states. Basically, the sessions focused on those sectors that are given priority consideration at Summit meetings.

During 1991 the regional office in Lomé developed its mission in Africa with two major Francophone programs: reading and cultural activities centres and the international fund for the development of African languages and studies of civilizations. Moreover, in June the Agency opened a branch office in Geneva, the European headquarters of many international organizations.

As part of the mandate assigned to it at the Dakar Summit, in June 1991 the Agency submitted a programming document to members of the international committee organizing the Fourth Francophone Summit. This document was examined at a preparatory meeting of external affairs ministers of states which will be participating in Mauritius on 9 and 10 July 1991.

Twenty heads of state, 14 heads of government and 15 other delegation heads attended the Fourth Conference of heads of state and government that use the French language. The Conference (also referred to as the Chaillot Summit) was held in Paris from 19 to 21 November 1991. Summit participants ratified the Declaration of Chaillot, in which they pledged to further the process of democratization, to consolidate democratic institutions and to implement appropriate programs. The Chaillot Summit also served as an opportunity to undertake an institutional reorganization of *la Francophonie* with a view to making it a totally integrated institution.

The leading institution of *la Francophonie* is, of course, the biennial summit of the political leaders of more than 45 countries having in common the use of French. Next in line is the *Conférence ministérielle de la Francophonie* (CMF) (ministerial conference of *la Francophonie*) involving diplomatic leaders or ministers of francophone affairs in partner states who meet on an annual basis. The CMF will convene as a ministerial summit conference or as the supreme organ of the Agency in the form of a general conference or administrative council. The new Permanent Council of *la Francophonie* (CPF), which is composed of 15 personal representatives of heads of state and government (including representatives of Canada and Quebec), will convene four times a year. The CPF is common to both the Summit and the Agency; it formulates policy and serves as a political coordinator and arbitrator in multilateral Franco-phone cooperation. As a permanent institution of *la Francophonie* responsible for Summit preparations and follow-up, the CPF examines and approves projects, selects agents, conducts evaluations, decides how the ACCT's multilateral fund will be used and oversees performance. As an extended Agency bureau, the CPF carries out the functions set out in the Charter and administers the statutes of the ACCT.

Programming will be based on the proposals put forward by the nine program committees. The Agency will preside over eight of these committees: culture and linguistic development; communication and audio-visual; agriculture; energy, environment; education, training and youth; scientific and technical information; and law in the service of development and democracy. The Agency will also provide secretariat services and organize two sectoral ministerial conferences (on education and children). Another committee chaired by the AUPELF/UREF is responsible for higher education and university research.

Meeting in Paris in December 1991, the Board of Directors and the General Conference of the Agency followed up on the decision to rationalize the institutions of *la Francophonie* which had been reached at the Chaillot Summit. The Agency, the Charter and statutes of which were amended accordingly, received confirmation of its role as secretariat of *la Francophonie*'s decision-making bodies and as chief co-ordinator of Summit decisions.

The Permanent Council of la Francophonie (CPF) held its first meeting in Paris on 17 and 18 February 1992. A decision was made to create two sub-committees, one responsible for the political component of the Chaillot Summit, and the other for the economic component. Canada is a member of the former sub-committee, while Quebec sits on the latter.

D. Future Prospects

In its 20th year, the Agency has branched off in a new direction. The decisions announced at the Dakar Summit gave it new authority and powers by recognizing its special position in the dynamic generated by the Summits. The rationalization of the higher decision-making bodies of la Francophonie, a process undertaken at the Chaillot Summit, should facilitate the work of ACCT officials and thereby enhance the Agency's efficiency, since the new Permanent Council of la francophonie will convene only four times a year whereas international preparatory and follow-up committees for previous summits met far more frequently.

CHRONOLOGY

17-20 February 1969 - The Niamey (Niger) Conference, in which Canada took part, laid the foundations for the Agency for Cultural and Technical Co-operation (ACCT) among partially or entirely French-speaking countries.

16-20 March 1970 - The Second Niamey Conference drew up the Convention and Charter for ACCT. Canada signed the Convention, with Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Manitoba adding their signatures.

1 October 1971 - The Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, and the Quebec Minister of Cultural Affairs, Mr. François Cloutier, announced that they had agreed on a formula which would allow Quebec to participate in ACCT.

11-17 October 1971 - The Second General Conference of ACCT took place in Canada (in Ottawa and Quebec City). This

Conference gave the Agency the necessary procedures and instruments to pursue its aims.

- 15-20 October 1973 - The Third General Conference on ACCT took place in Belgium (in Liège and Brussels). It was decided to increase the Agency's budget by 23% in 1974 and by at least 15% in 1975.
- 12-15 November 1975 - The Fourth General Conference of ACCT was held in Mauritius. Participants sought to give the Agency new means of strengthening and enlarging the scope of its activities.
- 14-17 December 1977 - The Fifth General Conference of ACCT took place in Abidjan. New Brunswick was admitted as a participating government.
- 12-15 December 1979 - ACCT held its Sixth General Conference at Lomé, in Togo. This conference was to consider proposals for a thorough-going reform of the Agency's Charter in respect to the collegial structure of the Secretariat (the method of making appointments, the duties and the designation of the principal associates of the Secretary-General) and the operation of the Agency. In the belief that more extensive consideration was called for, the member states proposed that an extraordinary General Conference be convened in Paris in March 1980.
- 25-27 March 1980 - An extraordinary General Conference of ACCT took place in Paris to decide on structural changes to simplify the decision-making process within the Agency's management. Thereafter, the Secretariat would be directed by the Secretary-General acting alone; the collegial structure of the executive would be abolished.
- 7-9 December 1981 - ACCT held its Eighth General Conference in Libreville, Gabon.
- 12-14 December 1983 - ACCT held its Ninth General Conference in Paris. Egypt joined ACCT as an associate state.
- 16-18 December 1985 - ACCT held its Tenth General Conference in Dakar, Senegal. Mr. Paul Okumba d'Okwategue, Political Adviser to Gabonese President Omar Bongo, was elected by acclamation to the position of Secretary General of the Agency.
- 17-19 February 1986 - The First Conference of heads of state and government of the countries that use the French

language took place in Paris. Forty-one delegations defined a total of 96 projects, of which 28 were considered priorities.

1-2 December 1986 - The extraordinary General Conference in Paris discussed the establishment of the Agency's organizational structures and the tailoring of its programs to the priorities of the Paris Summit.

2-4 September 1987 - The Second Conference of heads of state and government of the countries that use the French language was held in Quebec City. Forty delegations took part.

7-8 December 1987 - ACCT held its Eleventh General Conference in Paris.

24-26 May 1989 - The Third Conference of heads of state and government of countries that use the French language took place in Dakar, Senegal, and was attended by 44 delegations.

29 November -

1 December 1989 - ACCT's Board of Directors met in Quebec City.

3-5 December 1989 - ACCT held its 12th General Conference in Ottawa. Quebec's Delegate General in Paris, Mr. Jean-Louis Roy, was elected Secretary General of the Agency.

19-21 November 1991 - In Paris, 20 heads of State, 14 heads of government and 15 other delegation chiefs attended the Fourth Conference of heads of state and government that use the French language. The adoption of the Declaration of Chaillot on human rights and democracy was the highlight of the summit.

12-13 December 1991 - ACCT's Board of Directors met in Paris.

16-17 December 1991 - ACCT held its 13th General Conference in Paris. The meeting of the Agency's decision-making bodies followed a decision to reorganize the institutions of la Francophonie reached at the Chaillot Summit.

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